



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

May 2, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I'm writing to support the San Francisco Estuary Institute's request of \$225,000 for three years to continue surveying and removing the non-indigenous Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay.

Although valued for food, *C. gigas* has spread aggressively in some parts of the world, where it has excluded or smothered native species including other oysters, altered habitats and disrupted food webs. In San Francisco Bay, *Crassostrea gigas* is larger and faster-growing than the native oyster, and may out compete native oysters for food or space. It could similarly impact other epibenthic species and other bottom-dwelling and pelagic species by over consuming phytoplankton and reducing primary productivity.

NOAA is involved in efforts to restore native oyster and eelgrass beds, to restore intertidal communities in salt ponds, and to develop subtidal habitat and resource goals for San Francisco Bay. The establishment and spread of *Crassostrea gigas* in San Francisco Bay could threaten species that are critical to these restoration efforts and to achieving subtidal goals, harming them through competition for space, overgrowth, and/or consumption and depletion of phytoplankton with impacts propagating up the food chain.

We therefore support the San Francisco Estuary Institute's effort to eliminate this oyster population before it spreads. A timely response to this invasion will save money in the long run and reduce the risk to California's waters. We therefore urge you to provide the requested funding.

Please call me if you have any questions,  
707-575-6081

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie Cosentino-Manning".

Natalie Cosentino-Manning  
Marine Habitat Specialist  
NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center  
777 Sonoma Ave, Suite 219-A  
Santa Rosa, California 95403





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
9500 Thornton Avenue, Newark, CA 94560  
Phone: (510) 792-0222 Fax: (510) 792-5828

May 6, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This is a letter of support for \$225,000 of funding for the San Francisco Estuary Institute's (SFEI) proposed project to survey and remove the exotic Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) from the San Francisco Bay. This project is a priority to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where a small population of this exotic species has been found. The Refuge and many partners, including the Coastal Conservancy, are embarking on the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast. The removal of this exotic oyster will help contribute to the goals of this project, which include restoring a healthy native ecosystem in South San Francisco Bay.

Our Refuge has issued a permit to SFEI for conducting the surveys and removing exotic oysters, and the Refuge has provided staff and airboats for the project. We expect to continue to support this effort in the future. I understand that our agency is just one of a large number of partners that are cooperating on this important project.

The Service supports the effort led by SFEI and encourages your program to fund the proposed grant. If you have any questions, please call me at (510)792-4275, Ext. 31.

Sincerely,

Joy Albertson  
Acting Refuge Manager  
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR

Cc: Andrew Cohen, SFEI



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Francisco Bay Region

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612  
510.622.2300 • Fax 510.622.2460  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay)



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

May 5, 2008

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Subject: Support for Additional Funding for the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Survey and Removal of Exotic Oysters from San Francisco Bay

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to convey the strong support of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) for further funding for the San Francisco Estuary Institute's (SFEI) project to "Survey and Remove Exotic Oysters from San Francisco Bay." SFEI is requesting \$225,000 from the Coastal Conservancy for partial funding for three years to carry out this important project.

The Water Board is the lead agency for protecting and improving the waters of the state in the San Francisco Bay region. One of our top priorities is to reduce the adverse impact of invasive species on the Estuary through prevention, control, eradication and education. Unfortunately, San Francisco Bay's natural resources have been heavily impacted by invasive species and the opportunity to stop another possible invasion is of critical importance in protecting native species. The oyster *Crassostrea gigas*, exotic to San Francisco Bay, is fast-growing, smothers other native species, and competes with the already endangered native oysters.

SFEI's Dr. Andrew Cohen is a highly respected scientist with nationally recognized expertise particularly related to invasions of San Francisco Bay. Dr. Cohen has developed an efficient project design to respond to this latest threat and has worked on other exotic species removal actions. The project includes an advisory committee that includes resource managers, land owners, NGOs, and other agencies to oversee and ensure the integrity and success of the project. The Water Board participates on this advisory committee and strongly supports this important and worthy project.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mumley  
Assistant Executive Officer





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May 1, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I'm writing to support the San Francisco Estuary Institute's proposal for surveying and removing the exotic oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay.

The East Bay Regional Park District owns and manages several park and open space properties on the shores of San Francisco Bay. The District manages these shoreline areas to support several objectives. These include providing a wide variety of recreational opportunities, educating the public about the Bay environment, and preserving and protecting Bay habitats and species.

The exotic oyster could affect these objectives by changing habitats and conditions at the shore, and by competing with other organisms. The exotic oyster has been found on two of the District's properties (at the Hayward and Richmond shorelines) and adjacent to a third (at Coyote Hills); and has the potential to colonize others. We believe it makes sense to take reasonable steps now to get rid of this oyster before it becomes unalterably established and spreads further through the Bay, and we support the effort by SFEI to organize and implement its removal.

This year the District has provided access to its shoreline areas and provided staff assistance to the survey and removal efforts, and we can provide similar assistance on District properties in the future. We would also be willing to serve on an advisory panel to oversee the effort. If it is to be effective, the removal needs to be completed throughout the oyster's distribution in the Bay. We urge you to provide the funding needed to organize and implement the necessary survey, outreach and removal effort in the Bay.

Sincerely,

Pete Alexander

Board of Directors

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May 5, 2008

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: Support for Additional Funding for the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Survey and Removal of Exotic Oysters from San Francisco Bay

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Estuary Project to encourage your support for San Francisco Estuary Institute's (SFEI) project to "Survey and Remove Exotic Oysters from San Francisco Bay." SFEI is requesting \$225,000 from the Coastal Conservancy for partial funding for three years to carry out this important project.

The San Francisco Estuary Project is a joint federal/state/local partnership established by Congress in 1987 under the Clean Water Act's Section 320: National Estuary Program. The Estuary Project is a cooperative effort to promote effective management of the Bay-Delta Estuary and to restore and maintain its water quality and natural resources through implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary (CCMP). One significant goal of the CCMP is to "control problem non-native invasive species" [Aquatic Resources action 2.3]

As you are aware, the San Francisco Bay is the most highly impacted bay system in all of the United States by invasive species. The oyster *Crassostrea gigas*, exotic to San Francisco Bay, is fast-growing. This oyster kills other species, and competes with the native oysters which are currently endangered. We now have the chance to halt or slow down this new invasion, the success of which will be of critical importance in protecting native species.

This project will be accomplished by Dr. Andrew Cohen who has worked on other exotic species removal actions. Additionally, Dr. Cohen is working with an advisory committee made up of an array of entities and organizations critical to implementing the project successfully. I hope you will consider funding the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy A. Kelly".

Judy A. Kelly, Director